

**REMARKS**

By this amendment, claims 1-6, 7, 9, 12 and 14 have been cancelled and claims 8, 10, 11 and 13 have been amended. Claims 8, 10 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 11 has been rewritten to depend on independent claim 10. Claims 15 and 16 were added as new claims. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and below remarks.

Claims 1-6, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Fujishita, et al. (EP0571638 hereinafter “Fujishita”). Claim 4 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fujishita in view of Klingman (U.S. Patent No. 6,219,736 hereinafter “Klingman”). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Sampsell (U.S. Patent No. 6,496,122 hereinafter “Sampsell”). Claims 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fujishita in view of Sampsell. The Applicant’s cancellation of claims 1-6, 7, 9, 12 and 14 have rendered these rejections moot.

Claims 8, 10 and 13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has rewritten claims 8, 10 and 13 in independent form to include all of the limitations of the claims on which they previously depended.

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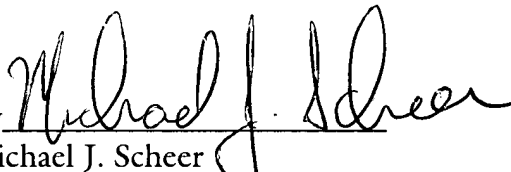
Claims 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fujishita in view of Sampsell. Claim 11 has been rewritten to depend on allowable independent claim 10.

The Applicant has added new claims 15 and 16 to more fully claim the present invention. Applicant respectfully submits claims 15 and 16 are allowable in addition to claims 8, 10 and 13.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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